

Department of Interior/VISTA Volunteer Opportunity
NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK
North Cascades VISTA Outreach Specialist

SUMMARY:

North Cascades National Park (NOCA) is seeking an Americorps VISTA volunteer for educational programs in partnership with North Cascades Institute. The DOI/VISTA will strengthen existing programs and/or create new programs to strengthen relationships with North Cascades National Park gateway communities and bring educational, service learning, internship and seasonal employment opportunities to local youth. The DOI/VISTA will develop opportunities for underserved populations, particularly low-income and minority youth, to engage in experiential outdoor learning on public lands. These educational opportunities will raise awareness of economic opportunities presented by continued study, employment, and careers in natural resource and conservation related fields.

North Cascades National Park will provide housing and office space at the Marblemount Ranger Station in Marblemount, WA. Work will occur primarily in eastern Skagit County, at the NOCA/NCI headquarters in Sedro-Woolley and at various locations throughout North Cascades National Park and Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. *There is a four-day required Americorps VISTA training in August, dates and location TBD (travels costs will be covered by the program).* Start date in the North Cascades is **September 1, 2015**; the position ends on **August 31, 2016**.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Ability to work independently and cooperatively as a team player
- Creative, energetic, flexible, motivated and professional
- Excellent communication (written and verbal), interpersonal, organizational and time management skills with strong attention to detail
- Experience working with students from diverse backgrounds and ability to engage with diverse audiences
- Experience working with low-income populations
- Ability to speak publicly in front of 50 or more people
- Ability to lift and carry up to 50lbs and hike over uneven terrain in inclement weather
- Comfortable working in both office and remote environments that require traveling long distances
- Prior educational or work experience with natural resources and the environment
- Prior educational or work experience in education and youth leadership
- Experience working with non-profits and developing partnerships
- Ability to speak Spanish is desired but not required

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Bachelor's Degree
- Must possess a current driver's license
- Must be a US Citizen, National or Lawful Permanent Resident

- Must be able to pass a criminal history disclosure and background check
- Willing to work outdoors, long hours, and evenings, including occasional overnight camping trips

RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Enhance existing outdoor educational programming capacity for underserved populations, particularly low-income and minority youth and their families in eastern Skagit County. Utilize partnerships and develop strategies to better engage and recruit low-income and minority youth in outdoor programming.
2. Improve existing programming and/or create new programs that provide opportunities for underserved populations to learn about and pursue economic opportunities presented by public lands, environmental education, and resource management fields.
3. Work in tandem with partners to create and deliver programming. Cooperate with local school districts, non-profits, community members, and public land agencies to create programs for gateway community residents. Conduct research and strategic planning to expand community outreach and engage new partners.
4. Develop resources and implement fundraising strategies that will build the capacity of NOCA and NCI to reach underserved communities and build pathways out of poverty. The VISTA will research diverse fundraising strategies and opportunities including both private and public grants, sponsorships, and fundraising events for nonprofit partners. Develop grant proposals to secure future funding to build the sponsoring organizations' capacity.
5. Develop volunteer recruitment and management strategies and practices to increase the number of volunteers working with programs to increase community engagement.
6. Participate in professional development activities provided by NOCA and NCI such as attending regional trainings and conferences, conducting presentations, writing professional papers, building specific skills, and developing professional partnerships.

COMPENSATION:

AmeriCorps VISTA members receive a living stipend of no less than \$900 monthly. The living stipend amounts to a minimum of \$11,136 annually before tax. Upon completing service, VISTA members are eligible for either A: \$5,645 Segal Education Award, or B: \$1500 Cash Award. VISTAs are entitled to one year of Federal non-competitive status for Federal jobs after their year of service, meaning that VISTAs have access to Federal jobs before the public. During service, VISTA members can place eligible student loans on forbearance. Interest accrued during forbearance can be paid by the Corporation for National Service (CNCS) upon completion of service. VISTAs who are relocating more than 50 miles from their home of record to serve are eligible for settling in and relocation allowances totaling no more than \$1550. VISTAs are considered federal employees under Federal Employees Compensation Act for the purposes of workers compensation claims. VISTAs are enrolled in a health benefits package that covers emergency care and some basic preventative healthcare during service. These benefits do not meet the individual mandate requirement of the Affordable Care Act. VISTAs are typically eligible for SNAP benefits during their service. AmeriCorps VISTA offers childcare benefits to members who qualify. The maximum amount of child care assistance a member can receive is \$400 per child per month. Supplemental employment during the service year must be pre-approved and must not interfere with VISTA service.

START AND END DATES:

September 1, 2015-August 31, 2016, plus a four day required training in August 2015 (dates and location TBD; travel costs covered by the program).

APPLICATION DEADLINE: June 10, 2015

Application review and interviews will be conducted and an applicant will be notified of selection by June 22, 2015.

TO APPLY:

1. Send a letter of interest, resume, the names of three references with current contact information, and a 3-5 page nonfiction writing sample (we suggest sending a report you prepared for college or professionally) to: doivista@coalcountryteam.org, Jason_Bordelon@nps.gov and Amy_Brown@ncascades.org
2. Complete an AmeriCorps application and submit it to the DOI/VISTA Team at the following link: <https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/viewListing.do?id=61788>

For more information, see the online VISTA Member Handbook:

<http://www.vistacampus.gov/lessons/vista-member-handbook>

Or contact:

Jason_Bordelon@nps.gov, 360-854-7305
Amy_Brown@ncascades.org, 360-854-2582